

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W
-----126481 221808Z /43

R 221554Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3340
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 22589

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS SY JO XF PLO
SUBJECT: PEACE PROCESS: OTHER PARTIES

1. IN COMMENTS TO LEBANESE WEEKLY "EVENTS" PRESIDENT SADAT THREW COLD WATER ON PLO AND SYRIAN PROSPECTS FOR ROLE IN PEACE PROCESS. SAID HE WOULD NEVER FORGET ABUSES OF EGYPT BY REJECTIONISTS AND "WILL NEVER RECEIVE PRESIDENT ASAD IN CAIRO" SINCE HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN HOSTILE CAMPAIGN AGAINST EGYPT. WITH REGARD TO PALESTINI-ANS, SADAT SAID THAT PLO HAS LOST AN OPPORTUNITY BY FAIL-ING TO JOIN CAIRO CONFERENCE AND WILL REGRET IT.

2. COMMENT: PRESUME SADAT AGAIN INTENDED SIGNAL THAT ASAD'S RETURN TO RESPECTABILITY MUST BE MARKED BY HIS TURNABOUT ON SADAT'S INITIATIVES. OPINIONS ON SYRIA HERE, IN ANY EVENT, ARE SPLIT. SOME BELIEVE SYRIA WILL BE OBLIGED TO REJOIN PEACE PROCESS BECAUSE IT HAS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE AND CAN NOT AFFORD TO FORCE SADAT INTO
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SEPARATE PEACE. OTHERS HOLD THAT SYRIA WILL NOT JOIN PROCESS SINCE, REGARDLESS OF SADAT'S INTENTIONS, HE WILL BE UNABLE SHAKE LOOSE SUFFICIENT CONCESSIONS FROM BEGIN EVEN FOR EGYPT. ONE MEMBER EGYPTIAN WORKING GROUP FOR CAIRO CONFERENCE OPINED THAT ONLY IF U.S. WILLING TO PRESS ISRAEL TO ACCORD SYRIA SAME CONCESSIONS AS EGYPT HOPES TO OBTAIN, WOULD SYRIA ENTER PEACE DIALOGUE.

3. PALESTINIANS/ARAFAT. THERE NOT MUCH HOPE LOCALLY THAT PLO WILL BOARD SADAT PEACE TRAIN. MOST DO NOT BELIEVE ORGANIZATION WOULD HOLD TOGETHER IF ARAFAT DECIDED SUPPORT SADAT, BUT ARAFAT STILL HAS CHANCE TO REMAIN A LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE. IF PLO COLLAPSED, HE COULD STILL HOLD FATAH AND SECURE HIMSELF A POLITICAL FUTURE. BUT HE CAN NOT WAIT FOREVER BEFORE DECLARING HIMSELF.

4. JORDAN. JORDAN CONSIDERED MORE LIKELY TO JOIN PEACE DIALOGUE EARLY. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS TEND TO THINK JORDANI-ANS ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO A PLO WHICH IN PROCESS OF LOSING ITS REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER. HUSSEIN WOULD NOT BE LONG IN BEGINNING TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF WEST BANK AGAIN.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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